with republican leanings. Thousands were jailed and mistreated. Many Jewish shops were looted.

The situation was vividly reminiscent of Petrograd after the Communist seizure of power. Hitler and Göring were getting ready for elections the way Lenin had staged the elections to the Constituent Assembly some fifteen years earlier.

The people were called to the polls on March 5. The leftist parties were deprived of many means of propaganda but were permitted to distribute handbills with the names of their candidates, to keep posters with their names in front of the polling places, and to have representatives on the commissions supervising the balloting. The S-D found it hard to get volunteers for electoral work in those troubled days, and the local organization asked Emma to join the campaign. She took party handbills to distribute and also went to the electoral commission. The party workers were instructed to climb to the top floor of an apartment house, push the handbills through the door slots on that floor, and run down to the next landing before the tenants above had opened their doors; then run to the next lower landing, and so on. At the meeting of the electoral commission, Emma did not say a single word, for fear of giving herself and the party away by her foreign accent.

Despite the orgy of terror, the Nazis failed to win the majority in the new Reichstag. They got about 270 seats out of 600. Other right-wing parties won some fifty seats. With their support, Hitler had a meager majority of 320 to 280. The S-D was the strongest opposition party, with some hundred deputies. About an equal number of seats were divided between the Center and other middle-of-the-road groups. The Communists had some eighty seats. By expelling them from the Reichstag, Hitler increased his majority to 320 against 200. With this majority, the Reichstag abrogated the Weimar Constitution, invested the government with dictatorial power, and dissolved itself.

The Nazi "revolution" was going on. No gas and torture chambers yet, no concentration camps—all these came later. But there was a reign of lawlessness and mob violence, a rising tide of bestiality, political murder, beating and flogging of prisoners. Then came organized manifestations of the new era—book burning and officially endorsed large-scale Jewish pogroms.

The burning of books was more of a demonstration of the new spirit of the Third Reich than an attempt at systematic destruction of undesirable literature. Trucks with brown-shirted young men roamed Berlin, stopping in front of bookstores, newspaper offices, publishing houses. They seized books they considered suspicious—books about Russia, pacifist literature, S-D publications, books of authors